IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Confirmation No.: 8962

HILDEBRAND et al.

Art Unit: 2456

Appl. No.: 10/076,181

Examiner: Bates, Kevin T

Filed: February 12, 2002

Atty. Docket: 2222.5390002

For: System and Method for Providing

Distributed Access Control to Secured Documents (as amended)

Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

Mail Stop RCE

Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 Sir:

Filed concurrently herewith in the captioned application is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Prior to examination of the RCE on the merits, please consider the following Amendment and Remarks.

Amendments to the Title begin on page 2 of this paper. Amendments to the Specification begin on page 3 of this paper. Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 4 of this paper. Remarks and Arguments begin on page 14 of this paper.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.